

RECREATION COMMISSION

Town of Sandown, NH

Recreation Commission

Meeting Date: May 17, 2023

Meeting Location: Rec Building

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Members Present: Chairman George Blaisdell; Heidi Dyer; Chris Longchamps; Darren Hudgins, ex officio

Also Present: Becky Thompson, Rec Director

Members Not Present: Ben Sharpe

Meeting was called to order by Blaisdell at 6:30pm.

Review of Minutes from Previous Meetings

Hudgins made a motion to accept minutes as written from May 3, 2023.

Motion By: Hudgins

Seconded By: Dyer

In Favor: All

Motion passes unanimously.

Blaisdell made a motion to accept non-public minutes as written from May 3, 2023.

Motion By: Blaisdell

Seconded By: Hudgins

In Favor: All

Motion passes unanimously.

Payment/Refund Requests

Payment Requests

\$3,400 - RecDesk Renewal

\$270 - Porta Potty at Rec Building

\$200 - Porta Potty at Miller Field

Refund Requests

\$290 & \$140 - Families who made mistakes signing up for summer camp weeks.

Dyer asked how Thompson is dealing with camp sign-up mistakes. Thompson said she tries to be flexible, but can't refund beyond when camp starts. Dyer clarified that a written letter must be presented in order to receive a camp refund, and Thompson said the kids on the waitlist can fill the now open spots.

Discussion of new business begins.

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Miller field Shed floor repair

Flooring Issue

Thompson shared a photo of a flooring issue at Miller Field with members, and explained that a cinderblock is sinking into the ground and looks like it may break, and stressed the importance of the floor being repaired as soon as possible. Members agreed to look at the flooring issue in person before deciding.

Broken Sprinkler Heads

Thompson presented a quote for fixing 3 broken sprinkler heads at Miller Field, totaling approximately \$150, but could go up to \$400 depending what is needed. Members discussed whether to discuss the issue of payment with baseball, and agreed that trucks cannot drive on the field again. Hudgins also suggested placing a stake with a flag at each sprinkler once baseball is over, making the sprinklers more visible, and mapping out where sprinklers are located.

Walkway Repair

Blaisdell expressed his concern with the safety of the walkway between A-Field and B-Field, and said it needs to be looked at.

Summer Camp Update. Supplies Pricing

4th of July Week

Thompson said she compared last year's summer attendance to this year's, and they are already at 121 campers signed up for this summer, compared to last year's total of 133 campers. Members discussed the need for more counselors, and Thompson said that will allow them to go from 70 campers to 90 campers. Dyer asked about camper weeks, meaning how many kids were attending for all 8 weeks or just some weeks. Thompson said she would look into it, but knows that many kids are signed up for multiple weeks, with the lowest attendance week being 4th of July week. Longchamps suggested possibly lowering the cost for that week, and Thompson said she hopes to host special events that are more appropriate for smaller groups of kids, such as face painting or bringing in ice cream vendors. Thompson hopes the special events will make it more worth it for campers to attend, but also suggested closing completely for the 4th of July week as another option. Dyer said they could also look into being open for 4th of July for those who need it, and providing special events. Members and Thompson agreed to look into different options for next year.

Supplies

Thompson shared pricing for many supplies needed for camp, such as art supplies and sports supplies, with an Amazon order totaling \$290, and a Walmart order totaling \$303. Members gave consensus to purchase the items. Thompson said she also plans to do a large order at BJ's for hot dogs and freeze pops, etc.

Grill Update

Dyer asked for an update regarding the new grill. Hudgins said he will be donating his grill and will bring it in next week.

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103
104 ***Wood Chips Update***

105 Dyer asked about an update on wood chips. Thompson said she didn't know how much they
106 ordered in the past, and is trying to determine that. Members discussed if it was 30 or 40 yards,
107 and Dyer suggested finding an old invoice, or calling where they ordered from before and asking
108 what was previously ordered by Sandown Rec. Thompson and members discussed picnic tables
109 being moved to the school. Thompson said she will speak with Artie.

110
111 ***Water Testing***

112 Thompson said both the state of NH and Granite State Analytical test for E. coli and offer the same
113 test, and asked members if they wanted the water tested biweekly or once per month. Thompson
114 shared that neither test for cyanobacteria unless it is possibly spotted in the water, and that there
115 are no regulations for how often the tests are done. Thompson explained that the state charges
116 \$180 for the whole summer, while Granite State costs \$35 for each test every 2 weeks. Members
117 agreed that the overall price is comparable, but Granite State is more work for Thompson, as she
118 has to administer the test and drop it off, whereas the state will do their own testing. Thompson
119 said she doesn't mind dropping the test off, and Blaisdell stated that he liked the testing happening
120 biweekly instead of once per month. Members discussed, and agreed to go with the monthly testing
121 done by the state of NH, with Thompson taking water tests to Granite State in between regularly
122 scheduled testing as needed.

123
124 ***Beach Clean-Up***

125 Blaisdell asked about Seely Beach clean-up, such as raking out the beach. Thompson said John does
126 it, and she helps along with lifeguards. Members and Thompson discussed the swim ropes, and
127 Thompson said she was waiting until it warmed up to contact Officer Bucco. Members agreed to
128 speak with Bucco now so he knows it's coming up.

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130
131 **Discussion of hiring camp counselors**

132 Thompson said they are hoping to hire 5 new counselors, with many offering to be trained as
133 lifeguards, in addition to 2 returning counselors offering to be trained as lifeguards, as well. They
134 will be doing their training at Sandlot with their lifeguards. Thompson said if they cannot attend
135 that training then they are responsible to find their own lifeguard training and they will be
136 reimbursed up to a certain dollar amount. Thompson and members discussed scheduling for staff
137 that are both counselors and lifeguards, and Thompson updated that one person has interviewed
138 for the MESH Counselor position, but plans to leave the job posted until Memorial Day.

139
140 Hudgins made a motion to hire the following people as Summer Camp Counselors at a rate of \$11
141 per hour: *Jacob Longchamps; Mikayla Menses; Julia Bohnwagner; Kaya Munsell; Serena Sierra*

142 ***Motion By:*** Hudgins

143 ***Seconded By:*** Dyer

144 ***In Favor:*** Blaisdell; Hudgins; Dyer

145 ***Abstain:*** Longchamps

146 ***Motion passes 3-0-1.***

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Thompson explained that this puts them at a total of 13 counselors, plus the MESH counselor, meaning they can now raise enrollment to 90 kids, and people can be removed from waiting lists.

Field Trip Update

Dyer asked if busses are booked, and Thompson said she is waiting to hear back but should be all set. Members agreed for Thompson to get a contract in writing from the bus company. Thompson also stated that she is switching the Fun City field trip to Sky Zone, which is another trampoline park, because Fun City will not get back to her.

Member Coverage Needed

Thompson shared that she has 2 upcoming family events that are conflicting with her schedule and is asked members for help. One is the PTA event from 4pm-6pm on Friday, June 2, and Thompson must leave at 5pm and is looking for coverage for the second hour, including breaking down the event set-up and bringing it back to the Rec Building. Thompson asked to have an answer by May 26. The second event is the Movie Night on June 23, and would need to leave early, as well. Thompson shared that there are currently no sign-ups for that movie night, and if no one signs up then they would not host the event anyway.

Blaisdell made a motion to continue the meeting at Miller Field.

Motion By: Blaisdell

Seconded By: Hudgins

In Favor: All

Motion passes unanimously.

Members and Thompson traveled to Miller Field to continue meeting.

Miller Field Visit

Members spoke about repairs needed at the pump house, and decided to wait until the fall. Members also assessed broken sprinklers and plan to speak with baseball regarding the damaged snow fence as soon as possible, to allow for better parking. Members looked at the walkway between A-Field and B-Field and plan to look into repairs needed. Thompson and members discussed replacing a damaged piece of playground equipment, and Thompson showed the deteriorating shingles on the shed, and explained that she was unable to gain access to one side of the shed. Thompson said she plans to contact a locksmith for a price, and Hudgins offered to help drill it out.

Blaisdell made a motion to adjourn.

Motion By: Blaisdell

Seconded By: Hudgins

In Favor: All

Motion passes unanimously.

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204 Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

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206 Next meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2023.

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209

210 **Submitted By:**

211

212 *Jessica Manning*

213

214 Jessica Manning

215 Recording Secretary